



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/646,574	08/22/2003	David B. Carolan	NCMM001US0	9538
37141 7590 09/12/2007 FORTKORT GRETHER & KELTON LLP 9442 N. Capital of Texas Hwy. Arboretum Plaza One, Suite 500 AUSTIN, TX 78759			EXAMINER TRAN, HAI	
			ART UNIT 3693	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 09/12/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>		<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/646,574		CAROLAN ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>		<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Hai Tran		3693	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/3/2005</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This is the first Office Action in response to the application filed on August 22, 2003, titled: "System And Method For Objectively Complex Familial Interactions And Responsibilities".
2. Claims 1-7 are pending in this application and have been examined.

### ***Priority***

3. This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/405,166, filed on 8/22/2002.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1, 2, 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hinton et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,993,596) ("Hinton").
6. **Regarding claim 1**, Hinton teaches a method for facilitating complex familial interactions, comprising the steps of:

Art Unit: 3693

providing an internet-accessible database and functions (see Abstract, figure 1 and description);

enabling access by users to said database and functions; wherein any user may specify additional users to be members of a personal community of the user (see col. 4, lines 42-47, col. 5, lines 4-30, figure 4/elements 41-42, 41'-42');

enabling one or more members of a personal community to share information with one or more other members of the community (see col. 1, lines 40-48).

7. **Regarding claim 2**, Hinton teaches that wherein a specifying user may remove a specified member from the user's community (see col. 5, line 26, figure 4/element 47).

8. **Regarding claim 4**, Hinton teaches that wherein the specifying user further specifies what information is to be shared with each one of said one or more members (see col. 6, lines 3-6, where it says "This domain identity cookie will be used by the individual e-community members". Examines notes this as that the user has the authentication to specify what information is to be shared with members).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 3, 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hinton in view of Polk (U.S. Patent No. 6,119,107) ("Polk").

Art Unit: 3693

11. **Regarding claim 3**, Hinton does not expressly teach such feature. However, Polk teaches a method and apparatus for enabling a user as a payor to order payment to another user as a payee, debiting an account of the payor for an amount to be paid to payee, and crediting an account of the payee of the amount (see col. 3, lines 16-27, figures 11-12, 14-15 and description).

12. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Hinton in view of Polk to allow a payor (member) to view his or her obligation via an e-community web specified by the payee (user) as described in Hinton at (see col. 18, lines 12-18). The motivation is to provide an improved web site for people to conveniently provide and access information from diverse sources in a unified way.

13. **Regarding claims 5-7**, Hinton does not expressly teach such features. However, Polk teaches that the information is a court order, child visitation, and child support payments (see col. 13, lines 8-29). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Hinton in view of Polk to allow a payor to view his or her obligation via an e-community web specified by the payee as described in Hinton at (see col. 18, lines 12-18). The motivation is to provide an improved web site for people to conveniently provide and access information from diverse sources in a unified way.

14. Examiner's Note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the

Art Unit: 3693

specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

### ***Conclusion***

15. Claims 1-7 are rejected.

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hai Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-7364.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9-4 PM.

17. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James A. Kramer can be reached on (571) 272-6783. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

18. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

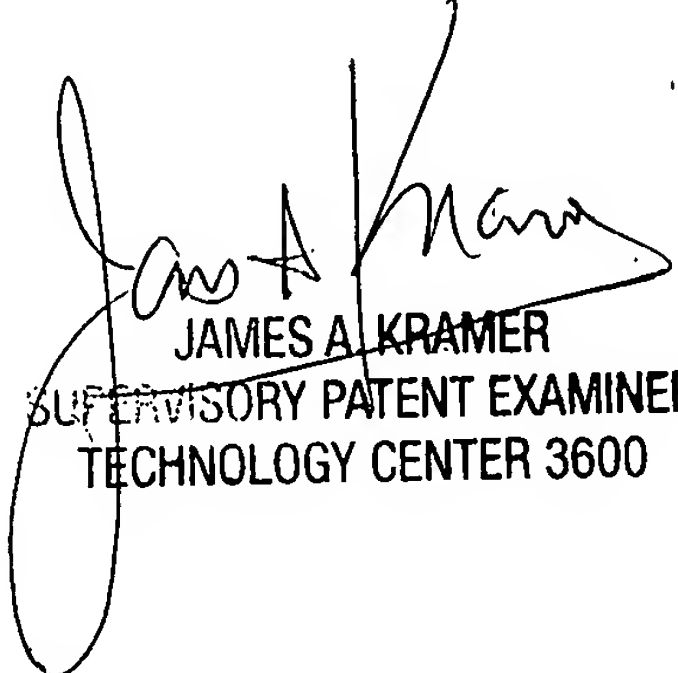
Application/Control Number: 10/646,574

Page 6

Art Unit: 3693

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

HT

 9-4-01  
JAMES A. KRAMER  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600